



News

SBA Number: 04-57

Release Date: March 25, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flathead Business Journal Honored for Business Advocacy

HELENA, MT –The team at the Flathead Business Journal in Kalispell has been named SBA's 2004 Small Business Journalists of the Year and will be honored, along with an outstanding cast of entrepreneurs and advocates, at SBA's annual Small Business Week Awards Luncheon on May 7, 2004, at Missoula's Doubletree Inn.

The Flathead Business Journal is a business publication published twice monthly by the Daily Interlake in Kalispell, covering local business news items for the Flathead Valley and surrounding communities. The primary focus of the publication is local business with feature stories and articles of interest to small business owners in particular. News coverage of local and regional interest is focused on business issues that impact the local economy as well as particular business sectors, again with the emphasis on small business.

For the past year, the Flathead Business Journal has had a partnership with the local Service Corps of Retired Executives Chapter (SCORE) in Kalispell. Local businessman and SCORE volunteer John VanderLaan has become a regular contributor to the publication, writing articles on various topics of interest to small businesses. The paper also has other regular contributors that write about other issues and self-help articles for small business. This partnership has not only raised the awareness of important issues that affect small business, but in turn has raised the awareness of business development and technical assistance resources available to small businesses through organizations such as SCORE and the local Small Business Development Center. These advocacy efforts reflect the Flathead Business Journals' commitment to small business and the economic vitality of the Flathead Valley.

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The Northwest Montana SCORE Chapter in Kalispell nominated the Flathead Business Journal. Other award winners being honored include: William Woody of Nightingale Nursing Services, Inc. of Missoula – Montana Small Business Person of the Year; Jack Morgenstern of Century Companies, Inc. of Lewistown – First Runner-up Small Business Person of the Year; Jennifer Keck of Big Sky Travel Nurses, Inc. in Conrad – Woman owned Business of the Year; Frederick “Rick” Larson of Employee Benefit management Services, Inc. – Entrepreneurial Success Award; Ryan Deskins of R&R Pressure Washing of East Helena – SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year; Kim Wild of TowHaul Corporation, dba Smith Equipment USA of Belgrade – National Small Business Exporter of the Year; Mandi Luce-Heinle and Sarah Ann Hamlen of Innovative Marketing Solutions, LLC of Hathaway – Main Street Business of the Year; Jerry Sullivan of Flint Creek Valley Bank in Philipsburg – Financial Services Advocate of the Year; Sheryle Shandy of Billings Food Bank & Montana Harvest Kitchens/Montana Harvest Gift Boutique in Billings – Home-Based Business Advocate of the Year; Craig Smith of the Fort Peck Community College in Poplar – Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year; Joe Fletcher of the Great Falls Job Service Workforce Center – Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year; and Joy Ott of Wells Fargo Bank Montana, N.A. in Billings – Women in Business Advocate of the Year.

For more information on SBA programs and services, contact the Montana SBA District office at (406) 441-1081 or log onto www.sba.gov/mt.

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